

**Subject:** Striking a Balance on the Budget  
**From:** Paul Krekorian <paul.krekorian@lacity.org>  
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**To:** john@thescbd.com



## Top Topics Include Ending Homelessness, Increasing Safety

This week, the Budget and Finance Committee continued our hearings on the Mayor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019. For more than two weeks, we have taken comments from the public and parsed the spending plan for every single department in the city. My priority throughout the hearings has been to make sure that the city remains fiscally responsible, while also delivering on our commitment to provide high-quality neighborhood services. In my view, it's a critical balance for us to strike.

Overall, we are contemplating a \$9.9 billion budget that will more than double LA's investment in the fight against homelessness and put hundreds of millions of dollars into street, sidewalk and traffic safety improvements.

The biggest issue we've discussed is our investment in housing and services to reduce homelessness. The budget will invest at least \$430 million in permanent housing, temporary shelters in every area of the city, services and additional facilities to help homeless Angelenos find their way off the streets. In addition, the budget is set to increase spending to fix LA's streets and sidewalks, making them safer for everyone, while also investing heavily in public safety by allowing the city to hire more police officers and firefighters. Our fiscal health is also positive, with a Reserve Fund larger than last year's and the biggest rainy day fund LA has ever had.

## In This Issue

[Striking a Balance on the Budget](#)

[City Council Moves to Regulate Short Term Rentals](#)

[City Takes on Opioid Companies for Fueling Drug Crisis](#)

[Record-Breaking Tourism Adds Billions to Local Economy](#)

[Metrolink Opens New Transit Station Serving Hollywood Burbank Airport](#)

[Photo of the Week](#)

During our discussions, members of the Budget and Finance Committee recommended numerous changes to the proposed budget, all which the committee will take up next week on Tuesday, May 15, at 1 pm. You are welcome to come to that meeting or any other upcoming budget meeting. After the committee finalizes its changes, the amended budget will go to the full City Council for discussion and a vote. That vote will happen at the end of May.

If you have comments or questions, please let me know:  
[paul.krekorian@lacity.org](mailto:paul.krekorian@lacity.org) or (213) 473-7002.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian  
LA City Councilmember, Second District

## TOP STORIES

### City Council Moves to Regulate Short Term Rentals

LOS ANGELES - The City Council unanimously voted to back a set of proposed rules regulating short term rentals in Los Angeles. Approved last week, the rules would limit Angelenos to hosting guests 120 nights per year in their own homes, but bar rentals if they are not in the owner's primary residence.

The rules must still be vetted by the City Planning Commission and will come back to the City Council thereafter. The aim of the regulations is to protect neighborhoods' quality of life and also permit homeowners to seek additional income within an approved legal framework.

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## Los Angeles Takes on Big Pharma for Fueling the Opioid Crisis



LOS ANGELES - The City Attorney recently filed a civil lawsuit against six leading opioid drug manufacturers and three wholesale distributors alleging fraudulent and negligent business practices that have contributed to the opioid drug addiction crisis in Los Angeles and across the country.

"The opioid crisis is devastating families and burdening our local law enforcement and public health services," said Councilmember Krekorian, who introduced the motion giving City Council approval for the litigation resources. "I applaud the City Attorney for bravely going after profit-hungry pharmaceutical companies and wholesalers to hold them accountable for continuing to push extremely addictive and dangerous opioids even in the face of overwhelming evidence showing how our communities are suffering."

The lawsuit names major opioid drug manufacturing companies, including Purdue Pharma, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Endo Pharmaceuticals,

Cephalon, Insys Therapeutics, and Mallinckrodt, alleging the companies used false and deceptive business practices in order to normalize aggressive prescribing of opioid drugs for various kinds of pain. The companies allegedly intentionally mislead doctors and patients about the appropriate uses, risks, safety and efficacy of their products, including downplaying the high risk of addiction and exaggerating the benefits of continual use for chronic pain.

The suit seeks to prevent the companies from further false marketing and require they take affirmative action to correct the impact of their prior conduct. The lawsuit also seeks to enjoin the defendants from maintaining the public nuisance of contributing to and perpetuating opioid addiction and to pay costs, losses and damages as a result of their conduct.

According to the California Department of Public Health, 23.6 million Californians were prescribed opioids in 2016 and 2,031 deaths occurred as a result of overdoses; including 4.6 million prescriptions and 353 opioid related overdose deaths in Los Angeles County. Prescription opioid overdose-related hospitalizations, drug treatment and hospital emergency room visits in Los Angeles County have also steadily risen over the years.

## **CITY HIGHLIGHT**

### **Record-Breaking Tourism Adds Billions to the Local Economy**



LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board recently announced that Los Angeles County's record-setting 48.5 million visitors pumped an all-time high \$22.7 billion directly into the LA economy in 2017.

In 2017, Los Angeles welcomed 41.2 million domestic visitors and 7.3 million international visitors. Total visitation overall grew 2.6 percent in 2017 over 2016 while international visitation grew 3.2 percent year-over-year.

Tourism supported 523,800 jobs in LA's leisure and hospitality sector, one of the area's largest and strongest economic sectors, employing 1 in every 8.5 workers. The tourism industry contributed to the second largest addition of new jobs last year across all industry sectors with 13,900 jobs.

Los Angeles hotels set all-time highs in 2017 for room nights sold at 29.4 million. Travelers generated a record \$283.9 million in transient occupancy taxes for the city of Los Angeles, a 14.3 percent year-over-year increase. These dollars are a critical revenue source for the city, used to fund local street repair, fire and police, as well as cultural and recreational services.

Direct visitor spending in 2017 was also \$800 million higher than 2016's total, an increase of 3.9 percent. Tourism contributed \$2.74 billion in state and local tax revenues last year. Without tourism, every household in Los

Angeles would pay an additional \$837 in taxes.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Metrolink Opens New Transit Station Serving Hollywood Burbank Airport



**Councilmember Krekorian and Mayor Garcetti stand on the new Burbank Airport - North Metrolink Station platform, located in Council District 2. | Photo: CD2**

EAST VALLEY - Councilmember Krekorian, who is also a Metrolink Board Member, joined elected officials from throughout the region to unveil the new Burbank Airport - North Metrolink Station this week. Located at 3600 North San Fernando Boulevard and straddling the Burbank/Los Angeles boundary, the station is located one mile from the airport terminals north of Hollywood Burbank Airport on the Antelope



Valley Line of the Metrolink system.



Construction on the new station began March 2017 and service kicks off on Monday, May 14.

If you take the train to get to the airport, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority will take you on a free shuttle bus from the station to the terminal to catch your plane.

Speaking at the station opening event, Councilmember Krekorian praised the station as a new way to link travelers and cities, demonstrating how transit in the the San Fernando Valley is more seamless and connected than ever before.

## **PHOTO OF THE WEEK**



Harvest Moon Kitchen & Marketplace chef-owner Christine Drapkin hosted Lunch with Paul this week at her Valley Village eatery. | Photo: CD2

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### **NoHo Spring Carnival**

**Friday, May 11, 5 pm - 10:30 pm**

**Saturday & Sunday,**

**May 12 - 13, 1 pm - 10:30 pm**

**North Hollywood Park**

**11455 Magnolia Blvd.**

**North Hollywood, CA 91601**

There is something for everyone at the North Hollywood Park Spring Carnival 2018, hosted by



the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Come out for great rides, the best cotton candy and plenty of outdoor fun. Meet the locals and support North Hollywood Park.



### **Anonymous Gun Buyback**

**Saturday, May 12, 8 am - 1 pm**

**Facey Medical Group**

**11165 Sepulveda Blvd.**

**Mission Hills, CA 91345**

The citywide Gun Buyback Program is an initiative of the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development. Individuals may surrender guns anonymously at the above gun buyback location. When bringing a firearm, please leave the unloaded gun(s) in a locked container or stored in a vehicle trunk. The gun buyback staff will provide direction to those surrendering guns after discussing their intent to surrender a weapon. Those interested in receiving a gift card may qualify for a \$100 card for handguns, shotguns, and rifles, and \$200 for assault weapons as classified in the state of California.



### **School Safety Community Hearing**

**Saturday, May 12, 2 pm - 4 pm**

**Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences**

**10445 Balboa Blvd.**

**Granada Hills, CA 91344**

LAUSD Board District 3 is partnering with LA City Attorney Mike Feuer to host a community hearing on school safety. This hearing is part of a series of blue ribbon panel discussions to provide recommendations on improving safety on school campuses and in surrounding neighborhoods.



**Food Drive 2011**

### **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**

**Saturday, May 12, 3 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Various locations in LA County**

On May 12, volunteer with the LA Fed, National



### Food Drive 2011

Association of Letter Carriers, Labor Community Services, and United Way of Greater Los Angeles to stamp out hunger! This volunteer-led food drive is the nation's largest single-day event to help provide assistance to Americans who are struggling with hunger. Click [here](#) for more information.



### NoHo Artwalk

**Saturday, May 12, 4 pm - 8 pm**  
**Lankershim Blvd., NoHo Plaza**  
**and the Art Institute of CA**  
**North Hollywood, CA**

EMX presents the two-year anniversary and expansion of the NoHo ArtWalk stretching from the NoHo Pedestrian Plaza, along the sidewalks of Lankershim Blvd. to the Art Institute of CA.

Collaborators on the event will be EMX, Noise Revolt, Space Brains and ActivateLA. There will be 60 visual artists, two stages, eight DJs, a dance battle and live painters. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/nohoartwalk>.



### Hike With Your Representatives: Community Hike with Councilmember Krekorian & Assemblymember Nazarian

**Saturday, June 9, 9 am - 10:30 am**  
**Coldwater Canyon Park**  
**12601 Mulholland Dr.**  
**Studio City, CA**

Nature is calling! Join Councilmember Krekorian, Assemblymember Nazarian and TreePeople for a morning hike in beautiful Coldwater Canyon Park! Tree giveaway to first 50 people! Please be aware that parking is very limited. We encourage you to carpool or use alternative transportation. No pets are allowed on this hike.

To RSVP: [bit.ly/treepeoplehike](http://bit.ly/treepeoplehike)



### NoHo Neighborhood Council Moving Meeting Days Next Meeting



**Monday, July 9, 6:30 pm**  
**East Valley High School**  
**5525 Vineland Ave.**  
**North Hollywood, CA 91601**

For the first time in 15 years, the NoHo Neighborhood Council is moving its meeting days. The NC will now be meeting on the second Monday of each month. There is no Board meeting in June. The next meeting will be held on July 9, 6:30 pm at East Valley High School.

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[Click here to view all the upcoming events on our Community Calendar.](#)

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